GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2386
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2008
NATIONAL FOODGRAINS POLICY
Ramadass Prof. M;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to review the comprehensive National Foodgrains Policy for setting up of high-tech godowns as part of measures to decentralize food storage;

(b) if so, whether any Committee has been constituted to go into the entire gamut of food security and buffer stock;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to make National Foodgrains Policy more effective and result oriented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)to(d): Government had announced a National Policy of handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains in 2000, with a view to reduce storage and transit losses of foodgrains and to modernize the handling of storage and transportation of foodgrains.Under this Policy integrated bulk handling, storage and transportation facilities are created through private sector participation on Build-own-Operate basis in the country.A technical Group under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Food and Public Distribution has been constituted to review the Buffer Stocking Policy of foodgrains.The Technical Group has entrusted the study to the National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research to review the buffer stocking policy of foodgrains.

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has also introduced a Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme namely `Gramin Bhandaran Yojana` for construction of Rural Godowns during 2001-02 to enable farmers to enhance their holding capacity to sell their produce at remunerative price.Under the scheme, Central Government is providing subsidy @ 25% of capital cost of the project.A higher subsidy of 33.33% of the capital cost is provided for beneficiaries belonging to SC/ST and for North Eastern States and hilly areas.